



Clark Hubbs and the Fishes of Texas

Clark had deep ichthyological roots. He grew up collecting fishes and didn't stop until the very end.

Along with his more than 300 published scientific papers, the specimens he collected and preserved will last in museums, and be studied, forever.

We can only imagine the information stored in them that will one day be “read” by future scientists with techniques we can only dream of today.



Clark Hubbs and the Fishes of Texas

Clark generally stopped preserving (but not collecting) specimens in the 1990s, but the specimens he left us will be studied for centuries and the data on them undoubtedly provides the best information we will ever have on what Texas' rivers and streams were like in the mid-20th century.

Clark founded the fish collection that is now UT's Texas Natural History Collection. Data on his specimens stored there can be used to quickly illustrate his history of work as an avid ichthyologist with an apparently unlimited supply of formalin.



Clark published the first “Checklist of the Fishes of Texas” in 1953.

Many editions subsequently appeared over 4 decades as it was continually updated and expanded, largely on the basis of Clark’s own research.

Eventually, this evolved into a book project that is still in progress, but much work has been accomplished.

Former students and colleagues of Clark’s still hope to one day produce the book, and toward that, have compiled all available data from preserved specimens in museums.

The project lives on as the Fishes of Texas Project.



Fishes of Texas Project

compiled all available data from:

- 34 US, Canadian, Mexican, European institutions**
- 260 freshwater species (each collected at least once by Clark)**
- 1854 – present**
- About 95% of all specimens ever collected in the state**

Obviously others had been collecting fishes in our state long before Clark came, and others have continued to do so.....

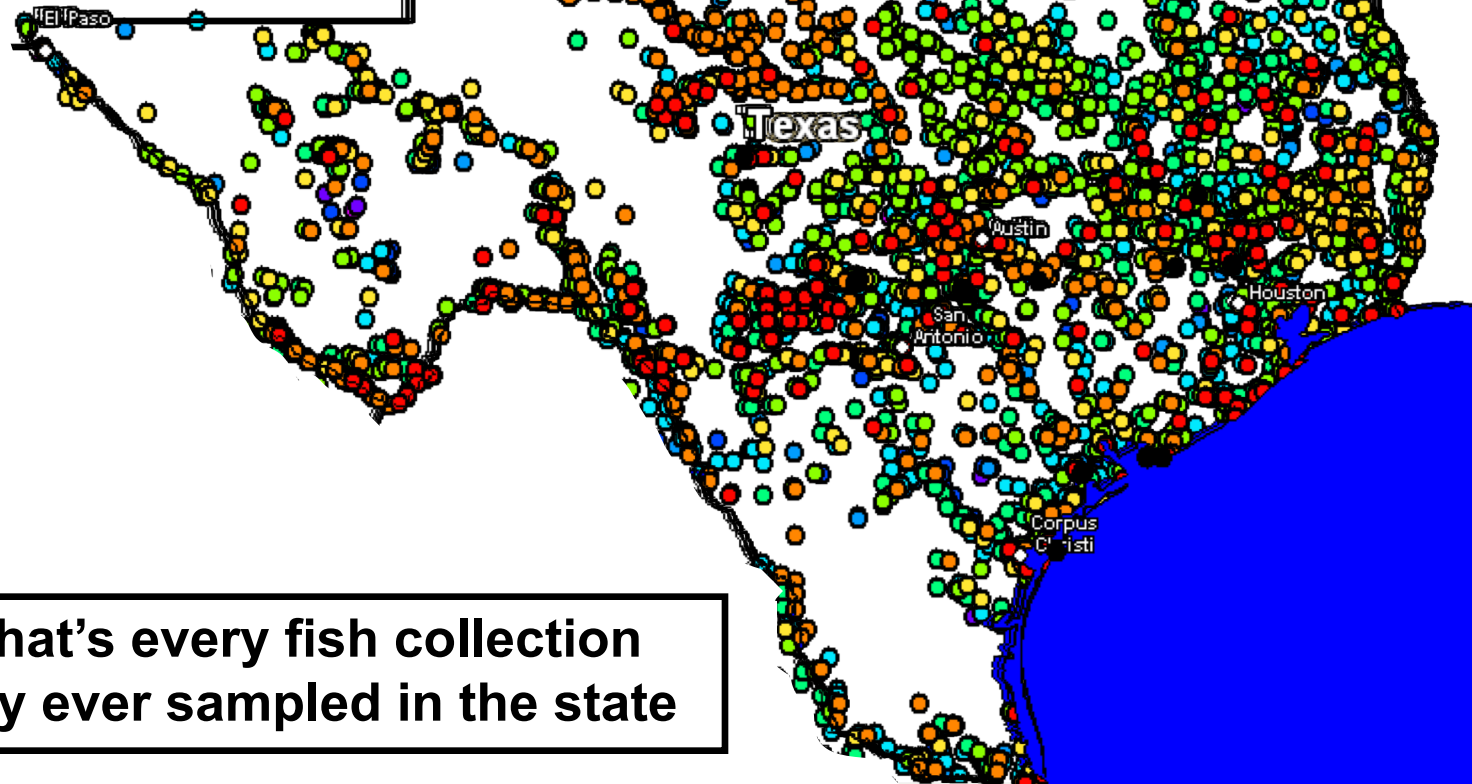
But Clark holds the record! He alone collected way more than anybody else ever did, and most likely way more than anybody else ever will:

	Total	Clark alone
localities	20,664	2,071
lots (jars)	65,876	7,905
specimens	1,976,280	274,130

With all of the data on the state's fish fauna now in one place we can easily visualize the complete history of collections of Texas fishes and use that to put Clark's lifes work in perspective.....

**All collections in
chronological order**

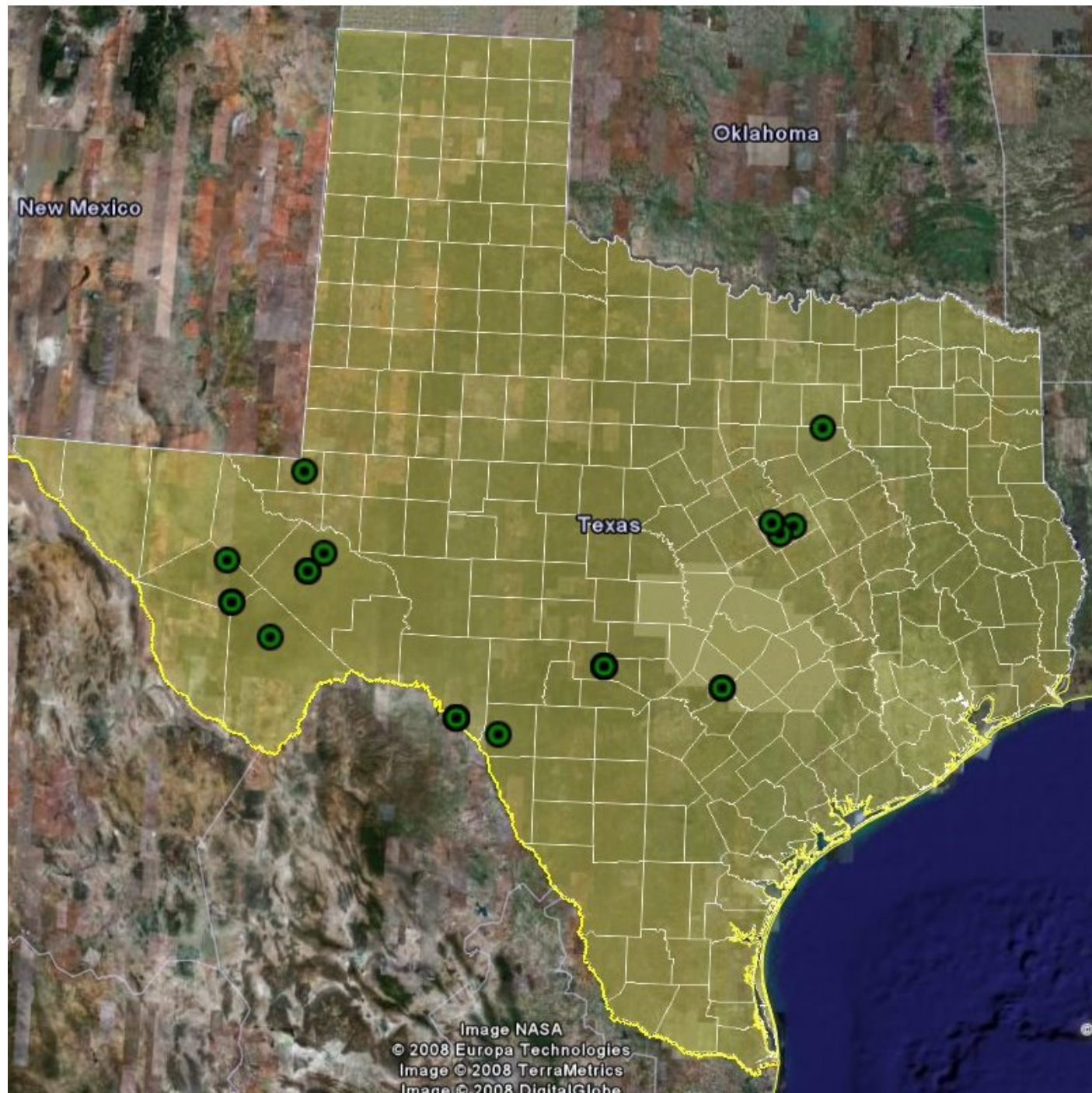
1900 – 1910
to
2000 – present
by decade



**So, that's every fish collection
locality ever sampled in the state**

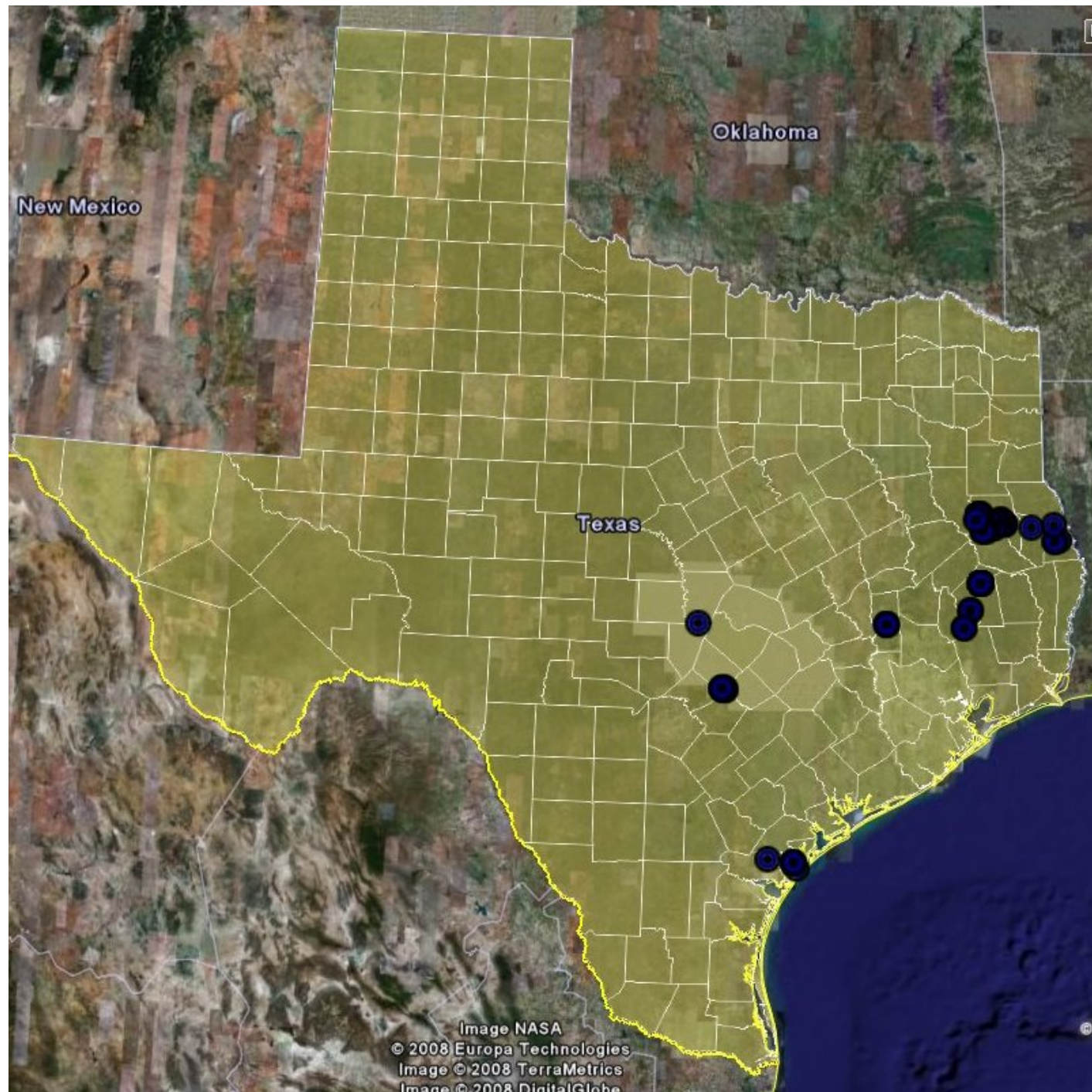
**And now, we
can focus on
just what Clark
alone did...**

**1930's – the
Hubbs family
passed
through Texas
and collected
at these
locations.**



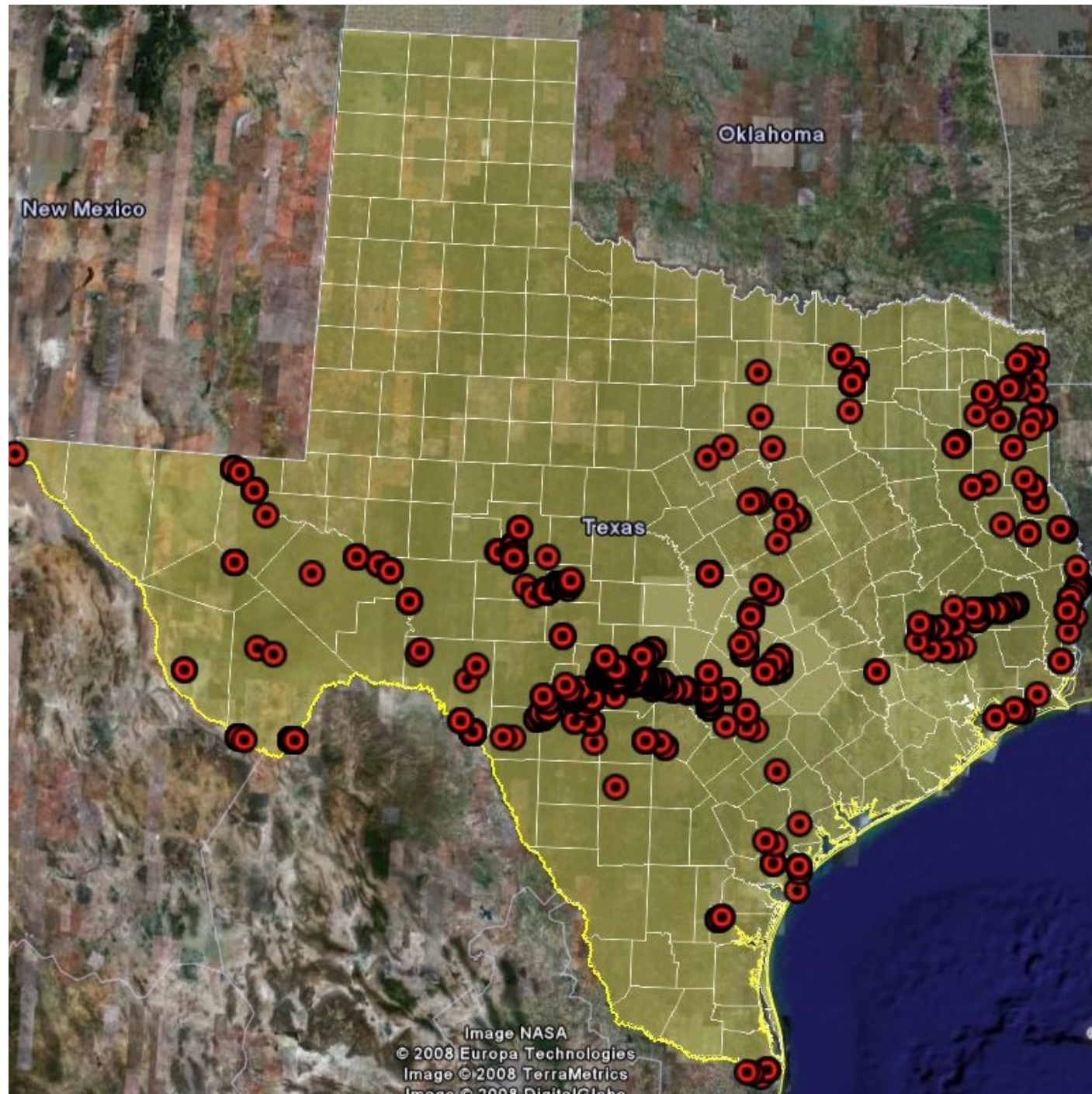
1940's

**Clark and
Cathy moved
to Austin in
1949 and he
quickly got
busy.**



1950's Publications:

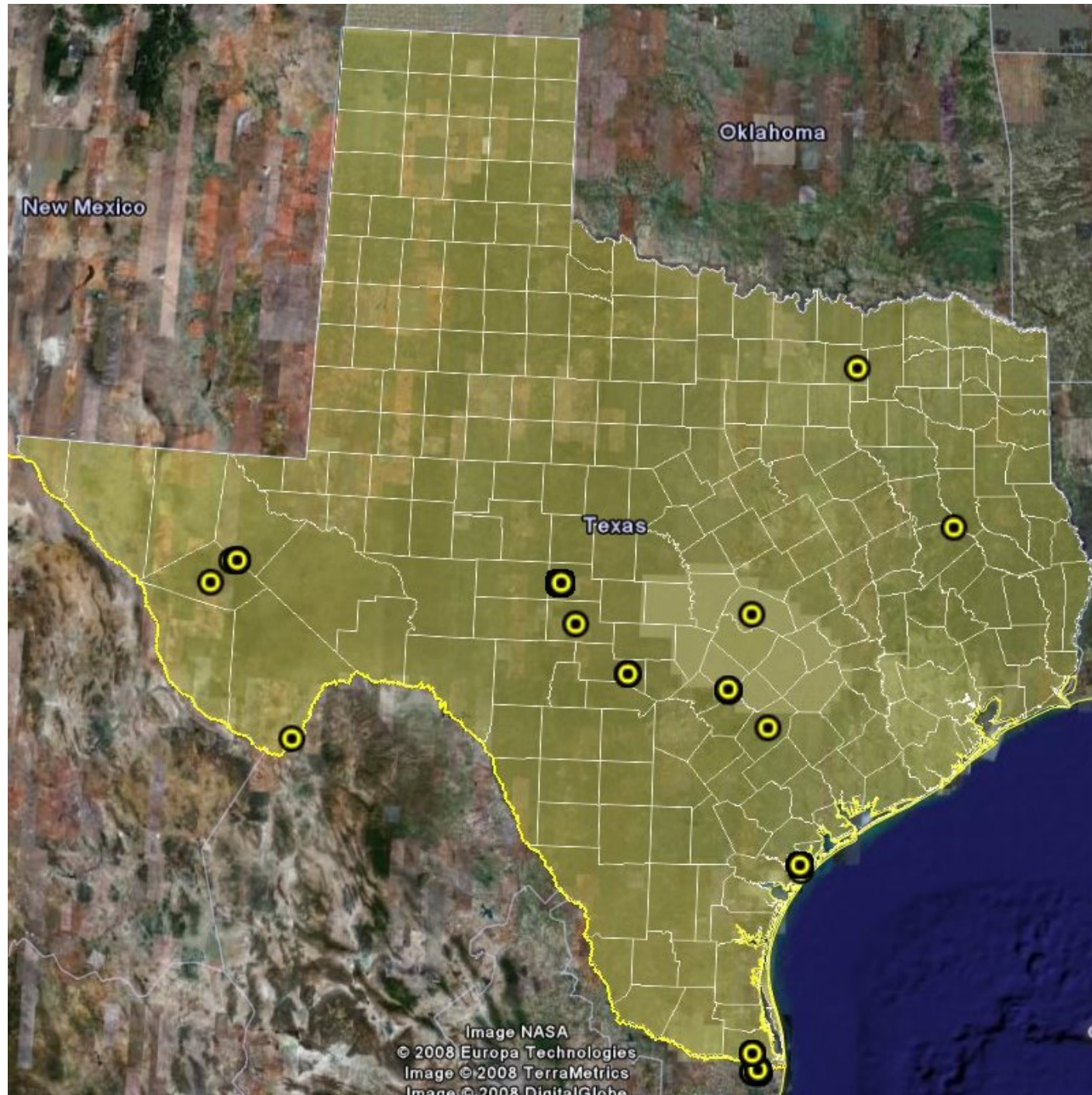
- New species described
- Distribution records
- Generic revisions
- Starting to publish on hybridization late in this decade



1960's

**Publications
focused on
laboratory
work, but
fieldwork was
not forgotten:**

- Hybridization
- Development
- Effects of temperature



1970's

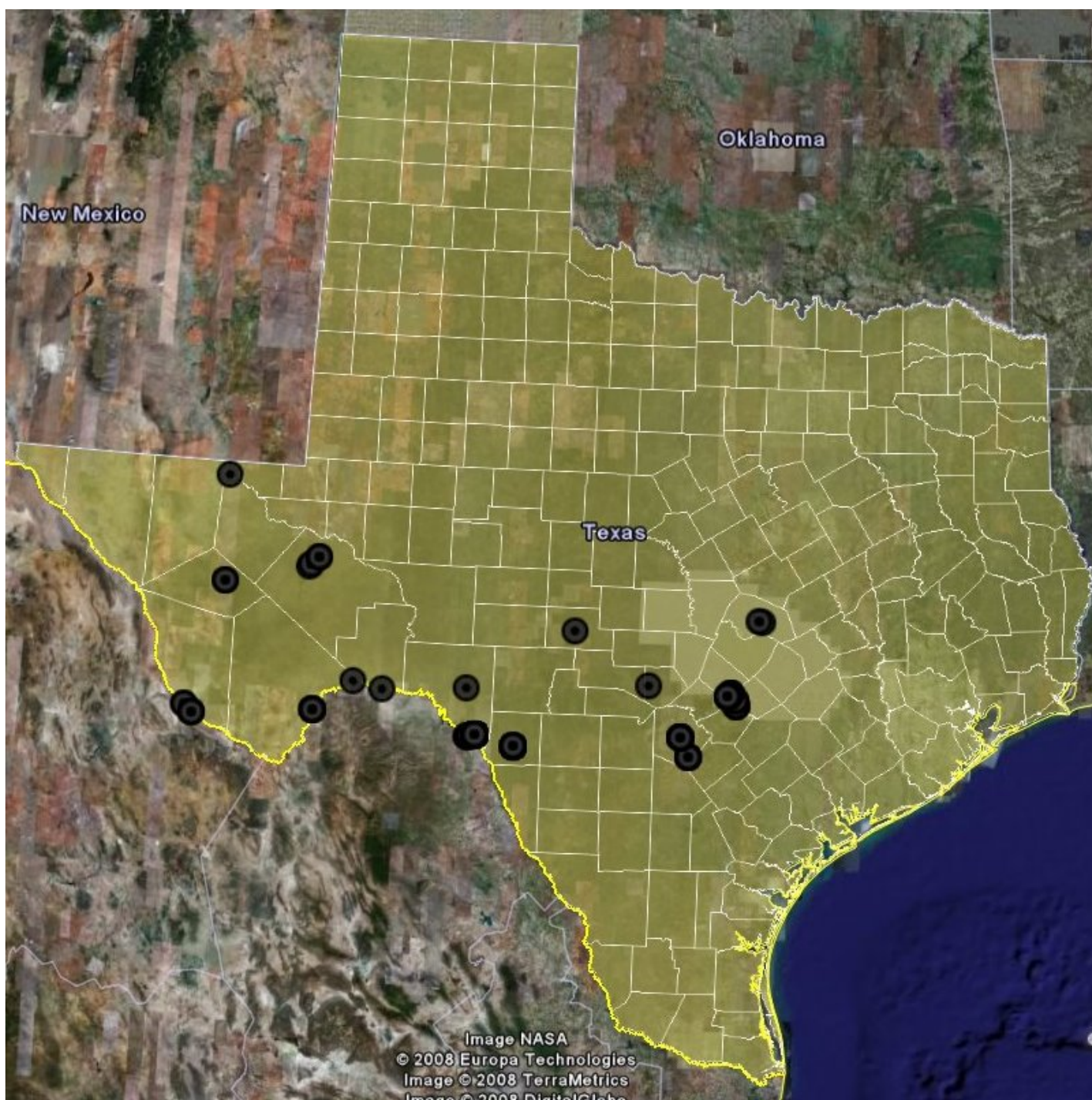
**Publications
continued on:**

- Hybridization

- Thermal
effects

and

- “endangered”
became
common in
titles of his
papers

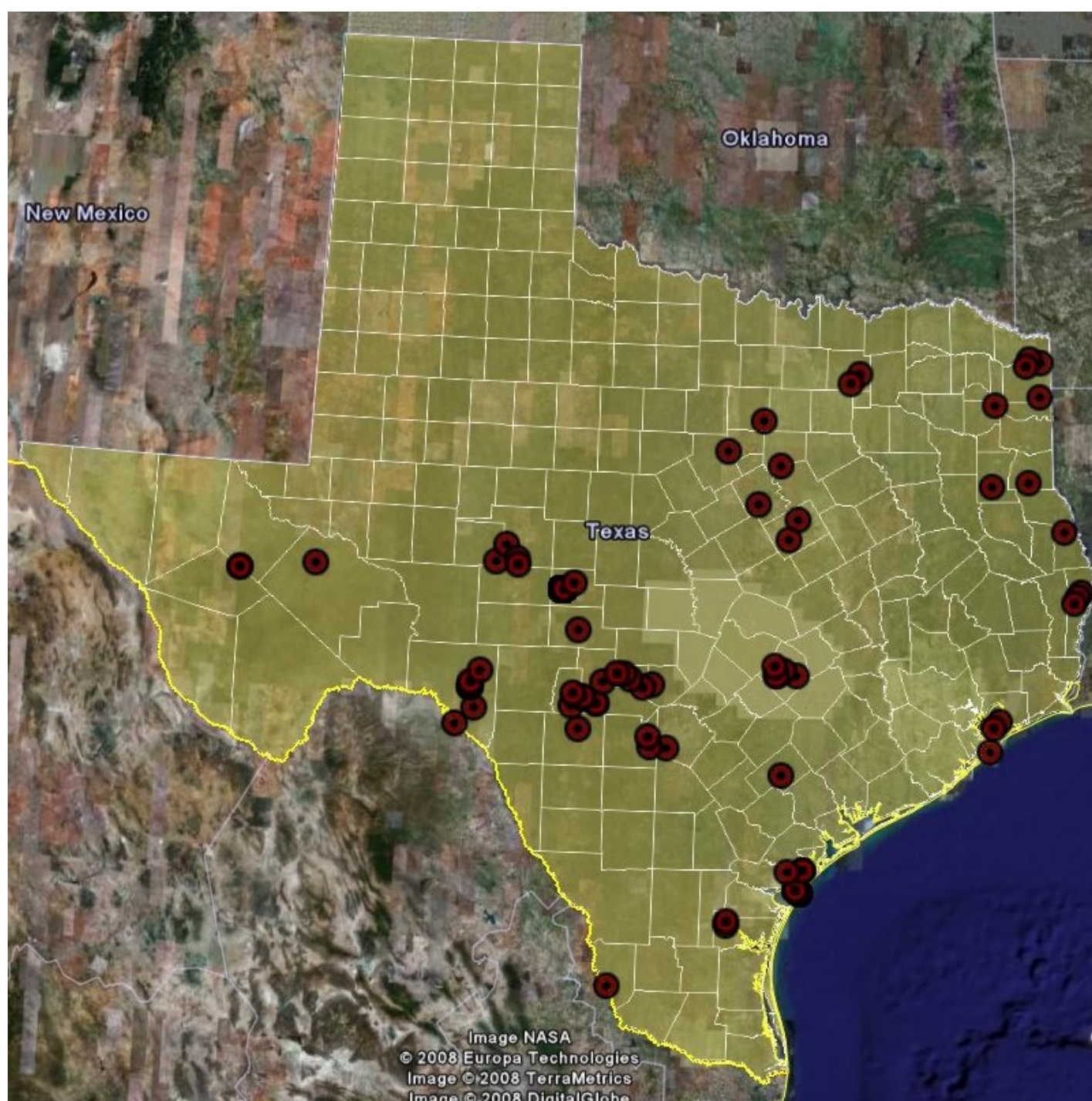


1980's

**A few
publications
still on:**

- Hybridization
- Thermal
effects

**But almost all
papers were
on endangered
species and
“extinction” of
two of Texas
fishes**



1990's

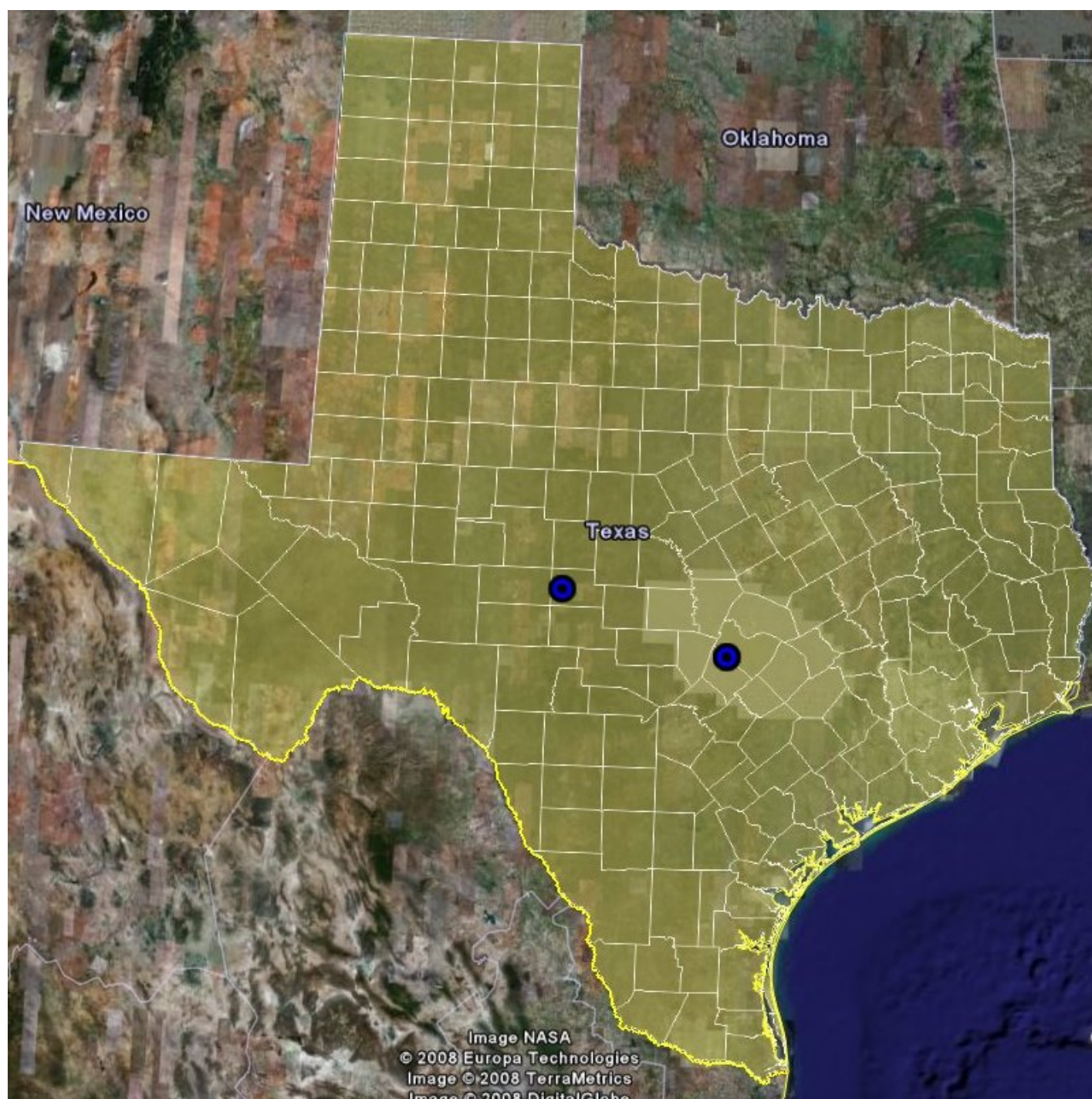
**Publications
on:**

- **endangered
species**

- **Descriptive
and
comparative
life history**

- **2000's**

- **Endangered
species**



A huge contribution for posterity:

Over 10% of all localities ever sampled in TX.

12% of all lots (jars) of fishes ever deposited in ANY collection.

14% of all specimens ever collected.

Even today, 20% of the specimens in the Texas Natural History Collection were collected by Clark.

